

THE
Election-Dialogue,
BETWEEN
A GENTLEMAN,
AND
His NEIGHBOUR
In the COUNTRY,
Concerning the
CHOICE
OF
Good Members
FOR THE
Next PARLIAMENT.

LONDON,
Printed, and Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-
Lane. 1710. Price 2 d.

THE
 ELECTRIC
 BETWEEN
 A CENTIMAN
 HIS IN THE BOUL
 IN THE COUNTRY
 CHOICE
 OF
 Good Members
 FOR THE
 NEW PARLIAMENT
 LONDON
 AND SOLD BY THE

Ge
 De
 Ne
 Tin
 cer
 Me
 Rea
 mul
 muc
 tend
 Ob
 Case
 my
 Wor
 the
 ble
 pref
 Par
 and
 teref

The Election-DIALOGUE,
between a Gentleman, and his Neigh-
bour in the Country, concerning the
Choice of good MEMBERS for the
next PARLIAMENT.

Gentleman. NEIGHBOUR, I am glad to see you. Pray
 sit down.

Neighbour. With all my Heart, Sir: for indeed I have a great
 Desire to talk a little with you, if you will give me Leave.

Gent. I never was more willing, in my Life, to talk with my
Neighbours: nor ever thought it more necessary, than at this
 Time, for us all to understand one another, and to act in Con-
 cern against the *Common Dangers* that threaten us.

Neighb. I understand that we are now call'd upon to chuse
 Members for a *new House of Commons*: and indeed this was the
 Reason of my Desire to speak with you. Methinks, Sir, Our *Tu-*
mults and *Hearts* have put us into a very unsettled Condition; and
 much depends upon this *Choice*, now coming on. I cannot pre-
 tend to be deeply skill'd in *Publick Affairs*: but I have made my
 Observations, as any one of the meanest Abilities may do in plain
Cases; and should be glad to hear your Sentiments, before I fix
 my self thoroughly in my own.

Gent. It is my way, *honest Friend*, to judge of *Men* by their
Works; and of *Principles* by their *natural Consequences*; and of
 the Designs of the several sorts of Persons amongst us, by the visi-
 ble Tendency of their *Conduct*. I know you have your View at
 present upon the *Persons* fittest to be *elected* to serve in the next
Parliament: and therefore I will come to the Point immediately;
 and freely declare to you that I will give my *Vote*, and all my *In-*
terest, to those Persons, who have approv'd themselves the best

Friends to Her Majesty now reigning; the strongest *Advocates* for the *Protestant Succession*; the truest *Lovers* of their *Country* and *Country-men*; and have done most towards an *honourable* and *lasting Peace*. By these four Marks I am resolv'd to guide my Judgment: and if these *Characters* belong to the *Tories*, they shall have me at their Command; if to the *Whigs*, then I am on *their Side*. These are the Two Names by which Men are now distinguish'd: and we can hardly talk upon this Subject without making use of them.

Neighb. I am glad to hear you put the Matter upon Four so important Points. I am sure, I desire no better *Marks*: and am resolv'd to follow the same *Rule* my self.

Gent. Now you must observe that the *Tories* not only allow, but contend, that *Her Majesty* hath been, for some Years, under the Direction of a *Whig-Ministry*, and *Whig-Parliaments*. Let me then ask you, By *whom* is it that *Her Glory* has been carried to an *unprecedented Height*? By *whom* hath every thing been done that *She* esteem'd *Glorious to Her self*? By *whom* hath that *Brave General* been encourag'd, and those *Troops* animated, which had almost reduc'd *Her Enemies* to beg *Peace*? By *whom* have vast *Sums* of *Money* been advanc'd to carry forward *Her Interest* and *Honour*? By *whom* hath the *National Credit* been rais'd to an *unparallell'd Pitch*? By *whom* have the *Allies* been kept in the *strictest Union* and *Concord*? By *whom* hath every thing been done, or attempted, that could give a *Blow* to *France*, or to the *Pretender*? Is it not by *those*, whose Advice the *Queen* hath been pleas'd so long to follow, and by their *Friends* and *Adherents*, call'd by the other Party, *Whigs*? And now turn the Tables, To whose *Tumults* is it that we owe the present *Stop* that is put to the Prospect of a glorious *Peace*? And the raising once more the *Expectations* of *Her Majesty's Enemies*? And every Degree of *Hope* that the *Enemy* at present shews? And even another *Invasion* now not unlikely to come upon us?

Neighb. But, Sir, by your Leave I must stop you a little. The *Tories* pretend that they shew their particular Love to their *Queen*, by standing up for the *Queen's Prerogative* more than their *Neighbours*. At this Time, one hears nothing from them, amidst their present *Satisfactions*, they express but a noise about *Power*, and *Prerogative*. And doth not this look like more hearty Friendship to *Her Majesty* than that of the *Whigs*, who don't appear so zealous for *Her Prerogative*?

Gent. I perceive, *Neighbour*, what you aim at, and what sort of Men you have been talking with. *Her Majesty* hath been pleas'd to change *Her Ministry*, and to dissolve *Her Parliament*. How little soever we wish'd to see this, it is our *Business*

ness and Duty, quietly to acquiesce in what *She* hath judg'd proper to do; and not to imitate a *Modern Precedent* of Tumult and Discontent. I would not willingly say any thing that should carry the least Shadow of Disrespect along with it, either to Her *Sacred Majesty*, or to Her *Ministry*. But it is but Justice to vindicate those who are abus'd, and to shew the Fallacies of those amongst us who pretend to give such *Reasons* for Things they know nothing of, as are not only injurious to their *Neighbours*, but dishonourable to Her *Majesty's* true Honour and Interest. Upon the present *Conjuncture* you find them, you say, very loud upon the *Prerogative*, and representing the *Whigs* as *Enemies* to it. Now, you must know that by this means they would make the World believe that the *Contest* turns upon that which bears not the least part in it. There is no one who ever denied that it is Her *Majesty's* *Prerogative* to change Her *Ministry*, and to dissolve Her *Parliament*. The *Whigs* are as free to acknowledge it, as the *Tories* themselves. But then it is as plain, on the other side, that it is in Her *Prerogative* likewise, not to change the one, or dissolve the other; and that the *Royal Prerogative* is seen, as much in the not doing, as in the doing these: So that as to the Point of *Prerogative*, here is no difference in the present *Case*, after all their Outcries. The *Whigs* hope, it is neither *Treason*, nor *Criminal*, that, before they knew Her *Majesty's* Pleasure, they wish'd the Continuance of a wise and successful *Ministry*, and of a *Parliament* that, with the greatest Zeal, prosecuted the *Publick Interest*. They flatter themselves that their Wish was founded upon the Principles of true Love, and Regard to Her *Honour*. And they can but pity the Weakness of those of their Fellow-Subjects, who are so impos'd upon as to imagine that the *Prerogative* was not as much regarded by them, as by others. It is just as it is in the *Case* of Peace and War. To make Peace is not more truly a part of the *Prerogative*, than not to make Peace. It is just as it is in our private Affairs. My *Prerogative* is not more seen in dismissing those I have a Power to dismiss, than in retaining those whom I have a Power to retain. Which way of exerting the *Prerogative* would have been best, it is not our Parts to determine. I have only been shewing you that the *Prerogative* would have been equally exerted, and equally seen both ways, in the *Case* you are now pointing at. As for other Instances, search all *Accounts* since the *Revolution*, and consult *Experience*, and they will satisfy you, who they are that, since the *Exclusion* of the *Popish Line*, have been most for putting *Cramps* and *Fetters* upon the

Royal Prerogative. Take it from me, *Neighbour*, they that talk loudest of *Prerogative*, are not always the best Friends to those who have the *Prerogative*. No Men talk more of it than our *Papists* and *Jacobites*: and yet I wou'd not have you conclude them the best Friends to the *Crown*. You see now how vain the Pretence is that the *Tories* are so much superior in their Regards to the *Prerogative*, since, which Method soever had been taken, that had been equally concern'd.

Neighb Well, but some of our *Neighbours* say, Why may not others manage Affairs, as well as the *Whigs*?

Gent. For my own part, I do so truly love my *Queen*, and my *Country*, that I heartily wish they may. And I am perswaded they will use their utmost Endeavours even to outdo their Predecessors. But of Events to come we cannot judge. In the mean while, I would not have those, who know nothing of these Matters, pretend to fix such a Thing upon Her Majesty, as if She had dismiss'd Persons who had serv'd Her with prodigious Success, meerly because others might possibly serve Her as well.

Neighb. But then again, I am ask'd whether it been't fit that new Persons should come in for their Share of the Spoils of the Nation, and the Profit of great Places.

Gent. It is Her Majesty's good Pleasure that they should come in: and in this Case, that is Ground enough for us to acquiesce. But since some of your *Neighbours* will be putting it upon this, that the *Whigs* have almost fill'd their Pockets, and that it is reasonable that others should have their Time, give me leave to say that no one that hath any Respect for Her Majesty or Concern for the Publick, can talk thus, when he considers what he saith. In answer therefore to such as argue thus, it is to be replied, That if this be not true, that the *Whigs* have been thus intent upon filling their Pockets; it is extremely to their Glory, and ought to be reckon'd to their Advantage. But if it be true, I would only ask, *Doth not a Pocket almost full require less to fill it, than a Pocket quite empty?* If therefore the business be filling of Pockets, as this Argument supposes, the *Whigs* are near at an End of that, and so might have finished things quickly for the good of the Nation. But if you suppose new Pockets to be filled; likewise, this must still retard Affairs a great deal longer. I know this way of talking hath been used by many *Tories*. But I must tell you, that whilst they pretend this way to expose the *Whigs*, they do a great prejudice and dishonour to their own Friends, who, I am confident, will nor thank them for such Suppositions. Besides that if this Argument be good, the *Whigs* must come

In again in their turn; which I fear, they will not allow. But it is now time for me to ask you what you think of this First mark, true Love to Her Majesty.

Neighb. Truly, Sir, I am perfectly satisfied that Love to Her, doth not consist in *High-flown Expressions*; and talking loud about *Power*, and *Prerogative*. I cannot but agree, that they have shewn the truest Love to Her; who have lent most Money to support Her; who have united Her Kingdom at Home, and put Heart into Her Forces, and Her Allies Abroad; who have actually raised Her Glory to be the *Admiration of Europe*. In truth therefore, if it depended upon this, which of the two have given the greatest Proofs of true Love; I should be resolved to Vote on the *Whig-side*.

Gent. We will go on now to the Second mark, that is, Regard to the *Protestant Succession*. You know, Neighbour, the *Popish Line*, though nearest in Blood, hath been excluded by *Act of Parliament*; and the *House of Hanover* nam'd expressly to succeed Her Majesty dying without Issue, upon the Throne of this Kingdom. That which us'd to be called *Hereditary Right*, by nearness of Blood, is set aside; and all our *Security* rests upon the last *Act of Settlement*. Now then, can you think, that it can be for the Interest of this *Protestant Succession* in that House, to bring up a noise about *Hereditary Right* again, and to be ashamed of mentioning that which is *Parliamentary*? And is not this the present Proceeding of our *Tories* upon all Occasions. Let them mean never so Innocently, and be never so firm inwardly themselves, for the *House of Hanover*; yet is not this helping the *Jacobites* to a Tool to Work with? And must it not have very bad Consequences? On the contrary, is it not more hearty in the *Whigs*, to lay all upon that *Act of Parliament* plainly, by which alone that Family can Claim next to Her Majesty.

Neighb. The Case needs no dispute, upon this Head, I can see so much, that a Zeal for *Parliamentary Right*, cannot possibly do mischief to our *Parliamentary Establishment*. But a Zeal for *Hereditary Right*, may do unspeakable Prejudice, amongst those who do not, and cannot, know the sound Sense in which some use that Term. But, Sir, I have heard the *Whigs* taxed with never mentioning the *House of Hanover*.

Gent. Honest Friend, There is a sort of out-facing the World sometimes in Fashion. The Cue is agreed upon, to turn every thing against those who *Object* it to others. It is an *Aire* the *Tories* give themselves. I only ask again, The *House of Hanover* being settled entirely upon *Parliamentary Right*: which is most for their Interest, to stand up for *Parliamentary Right*, or to revive a Zeal for *Hereditary*, which hitherto hath been understood to be quite another thing? I defy them to shew, that ever the *Whigs*

omitted any fair opportunity of particularly naming that *Family*, when there was the least Occasion. This I am sure of, that their *Principles* oblige them by natural Consequence, to be zealous for it. But the *Principles* of our *Tories* are so irreconcilable (at least seemingly) to the *Protestant Succession*, that they are often forced to endeavour to wipe off that Impuration; and we must be content with their own *Professions*, that they are in that Interest, instead of such *Principles* as appear to look the same way. This makes a vast difference between the two sorts of Men. The *Whigs* maintain such *Principles*, as lead them to a Zeal for that *Illustrious Family*. The *Tories* profess to have equal Zeal for it, but maintain such *Principles*, as will hardly bear such a Zeal.

Neighb. Nay, I have been told, that the *Whigs* are to bring in the *Pretender*; and the like.

Gent. I know it, *Neighbour*. This is another Specimen of the same dexterity of the *Tories*. And it came from hence. The *Tories*, you know, profess *Absolute Unlimited Non-resistance*. Now you honest Men in the Country, who are not acquainted with nice Distinctions, are perfectly satisfied, that the *Prince of Orange* came over with armed Soldiers, that many of us took Arms, and join'd with Him; that King *James* upon this was frighted away; that we fought against Him in *Ireland* afterwards, and the like. You will hardly let them out-face you, that this was not *Resistance*. This *Resistance* is the Foundation of all our Settlement; and if that were not lawful, then we are now under the Guilt of a national Sin, and obliged in Conscience to go back again. Now the *Tories* say, that *Resistance* in all possible Cases is damnable. The *Whigs* tell them, that this condemns the late *Glorious Revolution*; and undoeth every thing that's settled upon it; and makes it the Nations Duty to receive the *Popish Line* again. The consequence is so plain, that you cannot but see it. Nay, *This*, and *Hereditary Right*, are the only points that make *Jacobites*. The *Tories* not being able to deny the Justice of the consequence, have only this way left, viz. to profess, that though they hold the same Principles with the *Jacobites*, yet they mean no such thing; and at the same time, to take up the Humour to divert the Scandal from themselves, upon the *Whigs*. This is not so much artful, as it is resolute; because it is done with this Disadvantage, that the Principles of the *Whigs* evidently tend another way; but the *Tory* principles do manifestly tend to this, whether they see it themselves, or no. The *Whigs* allow and applaud *Resistance* in Cases of Extremity: The *Tories* condemn it in all. Consequently, the *Whigs* account the *Late Revolution* *Glorious*, together with what is built upon it; and can very consistently maintain, that there is no occasion for *Restitution*, where there

was

was no Crime. The Tories, on the contrary, maintaining the Absolute Unlawfulness of Resistance in all Cases, leave others to draw that unhappy Conclusion, that Resistance at the Revolution was unlawful, that all built upon it is so too; and that Resistance to the Popish Line, is an indispensable Duty. Compare Principles with Principles; Addresses with Addresses; and you will see on whom you can with Reason most depend, for the Security of your Religion, and Liberties. You will see who they are that revile, and lessen your Glorious Deliverer, and Glorious Deliverance; that never mention them with Honour, but when it is not convenient to do otherwise; and who they are, consequently, that are most likely by Principle, to adhere but coolly to what is built upon it, and easily to yield you up to the Consequence of their own Doctrines.

Neighb. I am glad you have said so much upon this. I shall know the better what to say to those, who are objecting these things to me. I am perfectly clear in this, that there is a vast Advantage in a Zeal by Principle; and that they must be the most hearty for our Protestant Establishment, who maintain such Principles, as plainly tend to make them so. I will not say, that all the Tories are sensible what their Principles tend to, or that they all believe the Principles they profess; but this I will say, that what they do generally profess, cannot tend to the honouring of the Late Revolution, or to the securing the Protestant Succession. They may possibly join in upholding it; but it will not be, by Virtue of their Principles, or by any Perswasion that they ought to do so. I confess, I like them, who not only tell us they will do it, but the Reasons and Grounds which engage them to do it, much better than others who tell us likewise they will do it, but at the same time openly, and with Zeal, espouse a set of such Pull-back Principles, as will not let them, unless Nature be again ready to Rebel against Principle, which is not always to be trusted to. But I beg your Pardon, pray go on.

Gent. The next Mark by which we are to judge, is Love to their Country, and their Countrymen. And this is much the same with the former. Do they shew their Love to you, and your Posterity, who are ever complementing their Prince with your Lives, and Fortunes; who always speak of you as Slaves; who deny that you have any Right to defend your Laws, and Liberties, against even the greatest Oppression, and Tyranny; who make the Prince above all Laws, and declare, that whatever attempts are made, you are obliged in Conscience to submit, with the profoundest Humility, to your Destiny; who, by this means, disgrace the Revolution, that saved you from Ruin, and shake all your Hopes of future Happiness? You know, whatever they say at some Seasons, whatever they

they believe, whatever they pretend in private; these are the publick *Doctrines* of the *Tories*, and propagated with a flaming *Zeal*, as their *peculiar Characteristics*. The *Whigs*, you know, ever maintain you to be *Freemen*, and not *Slaves*; and even when they are uppermost themselves, contend, not only that you have *Rights* and *Privileges*, but likewise a *Right* to defend them, when they are universally invaded. Now, which of these shew most *Love* to their *Country*, and *Countrymen*?

Neighb. The *Case* is manifest. *Slavery* is not *Happiness*. The teaching of *Slavish Doctrines*, is no great sign of *Humanity*, and *Love* to others. And therefore it is next to being ungrateful to the greatest of *Deliverers*, for us to neglect and disregard those who have ever asserted his *Honour*, and continue to maintain the *Principles* of true *Liberty*; as it is a sort of *Stupidity* to stand up for those, in all whose *Addresses*, and *Declarations*, we make no other *Figure*, but that of *Beasts* of *Burthen*, or *Gally-Slaves*. But they say, Sir, that the *Whigs* are for all *Licentiousness*, and for *undermining Government*, and the like.

Gent. It is like the rest of their sayings, and for want of something else to say. Have not the *Whigs*, *Land*, and *Money*, and *Wives*, and *Children*, as well as others? And doth not *Nature* give them as great a desire of living *Quiet*, and *Peaceable*, and free from *Confusion*, as their *Neighbours*? They cannot name any one *Principle* of theirs tending that way. The *Lawfulness* of *Resistance* in *Cases* of *Extremity*, which is in order to prevent *Tyranny*, and *Misery*, and to settle a good *Government*, is all they ever contended for. They can name no Man of them in his *Senses*, who ever contended for more. The *Truth* of this they themselves are not able to deny, when they are pinch'd. And therefore, they are forced, because they can't deny it, to misrepresent the *Whigs*, and make them say, what they never said, nor Thought.

Neighb. I confess, I never knew any one in my *Life*, who lov'd *Confusion* at that rate. I have seen indeed a late instance of *Thumults*, and *Riots*, and a *Passive-obedience-Saint* at the *Head* of them. And have greater reason from *Experience*, to conclude the *Tories* to be *Friends* to all *Confusion*, than the *Whigs*. But what will you say to the last *Mark* you mention'd?

Gent. If we enquire who they are that have done most to give you *Peace*, you must remember, that we are speaking, not of a *Patch'd-up-Peace*, which would immediately break out into a *War* again; but of a *Safe*, *Honourable*, *lasting Peace*; a *Peace* upon such conditions, as will certainly hinder the *French King* from disturbing *Europe* any more. This could be done by nothing but winning *Battles*, and gaining *Towns* as fast as *Opportunity* offer'd. All this hath been done, by the help of *Whig-Money*,

and

and a *Whig-Administration*; nay, it hath been done to the *Assonishment* of all about us.

Neighb. But they say, the *Duke of Marlborough* protracts the War, and delays Peace?

Gent. They will always say what they please. But do they prove it by any one colourable Argument? As much as they have given out this, it is probable from some appearances, that their *Friends* now at the helm, will not at last thank them for this; for they seem to wish, that He would continue *General*. And if they do, his Voice must influence as much as ever, in the *Affair of Peace*, and then they must incur the Imputation of this delay equally. But if they do not; is it not more likely, that a *new General* (who must ever have influence) will be desirous of Lengthening the time, in Order for his *private Advantage*, than that He will do it, who hath got so much already, and is grown Old with *Care* and *Fatigue*. But all this is *Calumny*. Do you think the *Allies* so weak, that they would permit him to hinder any *Peace*, that could answer the *Ends* of this War? No, no. Depend upon it, there is no appearance that He hath acted any part, but that of a *Glorious General*, taking such steps, as must without any Ceremony in a short time, have forced the *French King* to have taken what Terms the *Allies* see fit. The great Successes in *Spain*, are likewise owing to the influences of the *Whig-Administration*; and particularly to a *General*, who nobly pleaded against *Tory-principles*, for your *Liberties* at Home, and then as nobly went forth, and fought for them *Abroad*. And if you will consult your own Senses, who they are at this time, that have cut short our present Hopes of a good Peace, ask, who they are that have raised Tumults among us, and reviv'd *Doctrines*, and *Terms*, by which the *Papish Claim* is kept up; and the Answer will satisfy you.

Neighb. I hope all true *Englishmen* will shew the *Tories* by their *Votes* at the next *Eleſſion*, how much they are indebted to them, upon this Head. They always us'd to pretend that their *Friends* would bring us Peace, which others were against. I do not find that they themselves do so much as pretend that we are now the nearer to a Good Peace, for our late *Tory-Tumults*, and *Heats*. Had it not been for these, indeed, our great Successes in *Spain*, and *Flanders*, must unavoidably have brought it within our View. Nay, I can see so much, that whenever that *Blessing* comes, it must be owing to what hath been done already; and for my part, I will never be so ungrateful as not to acknowledge it, whensoever it comes, to be the Work of those, whose past Services have paved the way to it, with so much Wisdom, and so wonderful Success.

There

There is one thing still behind, of which I find more Advantage is made, than of any other pretence whatsoever; and that is the perpetual Insinuation that the *Church Establish'd* is in Danger from the *Whigs*, and that deep Designs are laid by them against it. This seems to stick with many of our *Neighbours*, who would not otherwise do as they do.

Gent. It is a very hard Case, *Neighbour*, indeed, that so moving an Accusation can be fram'd by any who profess themselves *Christians*, without the least Ground to support it. When they who scatter such Suggestions are call'd to answer for it, they solemnly profess that they mean not any thing peculiar either to the *Whigs*, or to the *Church of England*, but a Danger from *Atheism*, *Infidelity*, and *Profaneness*; which you see, belong to *Tories* equally, and threaten all *Churches* equally. And for once let's take their Word; tho' fore against their Will. You are acquainted with several *Gentlemen* hereabouts, who are call'd *Whigs*, whom you know to be as great Ornaments to the *Church*, and as constant *Frequenters* of it, at least, as any of their *Tory-Neighbours*. I had almost said, more so. You know they give all Proofs of their Affection to it, but such as would ruin it, and make it a Prey to *France* and *Rome*. And generally, all over *England*, they are as good *Churchmen*, as the other Party: and this is no great Complement neither. Nay, I will go farther and tell you, that the main of what hath been done by the *State* for the *Church*, or *Clergy*, hath been done by *Whig-Counsels*, *Whig-Parliaments*, and what is call'd a *Whig-Administration*. It is not in their Power to name one single Instance of this part of their Accusation against those whom they thus abuse.

Neighb. I have heard some pretend that their Hatred of the *Church* is manifest from their late Impeachment of Dr. S — I. But I thought I could answer my self to that Pretence, that it is a Sign to me of their Love to the *Church*, that they should be jealous to the greatest Degree of the Honour of that Revolution, which sav'd it, and of that Protestant Succession which alone can secure it. Besides I have heard that the *Tories* themselves universally acknowledged the Doctor's Sermon highly blamable; that the Doctor himself was call'd a *Mad-man* by themselves, and hath been spoken of as one that should have been treated as a *Lunatick*, and kick'd from the Bar of the House. Now, Sir, methinks, if the *Tories* themselves speak thus of the Man, this shews more Contempt of the *Clergy* than the Proceedings of the House of Commons against him; which are now come to be accus'd of only paying him too much Honour.

Gent. Indeed you are in the right of it. The Commons thought that he abus'd our Constitution, revil'd the Administration, rais'd a Spirit

Spirit
with t
Establi
only a
Whigs
a publ
him w
But i
Suffe
But i
are r
of ic
of th
N
way
ness
G
the
that
nex
mu
Ch
ie
Ru
D
In
be
th
th
w
b
T

Spirit of *Variance* and *Uncharitableness* in the *Land*, found fault with the *Laws* themselves, and shook the whole *Frame* of our *Establishment*. I enter not into the *Merits* of the *Cause* now. I only ask, which sort shew'd most *Regard* to the *Man himself*; the *Whigs*, who seriously prosecuted him, whom they look'd upon as a *publick Enemy*; or the *Tories*, whose general way of arguing for him was, that he was a *Madman*, not worthy of so much *Notice*? But it is a very hard *Case*, if the *Church* must be hook'd in, as a *Sufferer* in what is truly for its true *Interest*, and greatest *Security*? But it seems they will not let us judge by *Faith*, and *Experience*, but are resolv'd to think the *Interest* of the *Church*, wherever the *Noise* of it is. Do you know of any thing else they alledge in *Proof* of this *Accusation*?

Neighb. I have often heard it alledg'd, that the *Whigs* always vote with the *Dissenters* in all *Elections*, and shew *Kindness* to them, and the like.

Gent. You should say rather that the *Dissenters* vote with the *Whigs*. And what if they do? Must it therefore follow that the *Whigs* are forming *Designs* against the *Church*? Pray, next time you meet with any such *Arguers* as these, do so much as ask them, whether the *Papists* are of the *Reform'd Church* of *England*? Whether they be not sworn *Enemies* to it? Whether they do not universally profess to endeavour its *Ruin* if possible? Which can't be said of the *Body* of other *Dissenters*. Ask them, on whose *Side* the *Papists* always make *Interest*? And how comes it about that the *Dissenting Interest* being generally on one *Side* makes the *Whigs* guilty; and the *Papish Interest* being on the other *Side*, cannot make the *Tories* guilty of any *Designs* against the *Church*? Nay, is it not wonderful, that particular *Friendships* with *Papists*, and working by their *Interest*, should make Men be accounted the better *Churchmen*? And that the bare standing up for the *Toleration* of *Protestant Dissenters* should be a *Proof* of evil *Designs* against the *Church*, even when *Her Majesty* hath declar'd it shall be maintain'd *inviolable*; and when the *Tories* themselves are forc'd to profess, when they are carrying forward some of their own *Designs*, that it is absolutely necessary to be preserv'd, and never to be infring'd? What shall we come to at last, if *Papery* be thought no *Enemy*; and a *Protestant Dissenter* be not thought worthy even of common *Civility*? Were we not all glad, at the *Revolution*, of the *Assistance* and *Votes* of our *Protestant Brethren* to save us from *Ruin*? And ought we not now to rejoice that they vote so as to preserve us from the return of the same *Misery*? But I suppose this is a *Mark* of ill *Designs*, only where they vote for

for *Whigs*: for where they chance to vote for a *Friend*, there it is all right, and no such Evil is pretended. And if it be so scandalous to have such *Fanatical Votes*, why hath so much Pains been taken of late to obtain them? And what are some of the *Tories* greatest *Friends* likely to gain by this way of arguing, who have been often chosen by the *Votes* of some *Dissenters*? To sum up what I have said, If it be an Argument of *Enmity*, or *Danger* to the *Church* from the *Whigs*, that the *Protestant Dissenters* generally vote with them; then it must be equally an Argument of *Danger* from the *Tories*, that the *Papists* (tho' they cannot vote themselves) make all their Interest on their Side.

But now I will go a little farther, and give you a clearer Account of this matter, that you may know on which side the Scandal lies. I will first observe to you, that the *Papists*, and *Dissenters*, cannot be accounted equally *Enemies* to the *Church of England*; because the latter agree in *Doctrinal Points*, and the *Fundamentals* of *Christianity* with the *Church*, and their *Teachers* subscribe all our *Articles* relating to *Doctrine*; whilst the former esteem us an *Heretical Society* of Men, and in a *State of Damnation*, till we return again to the *Church of Rome*. So that on this Account, the Interest of the *Papists* on one side, is more Suspicious, than that of *Protestant Dissenters* on the other. And then consider that, as to our *State* and *Civil Constitution*, since the late *Happy Revolution*, our *Papists*, and *Jacobites* (for they are united in this part of the Debate) are professedly labouring against the *Protestant Succession*. To destroy that is in all their *Wishes*, and all their *Designs*; nay, it is made by their principles part of their Duty. You may be sure they will join with those, whose Principles, and Conduct, they imagine, may be most conducive to their End. I do not say, that they may nor be deceived; but it is manifest, that they judge the *Tories* to be most for their purpose, and therefore give them their Interest. Nay, It will be hard to give any other Reason for their Zeal on the side of the *Tories*, than this, that they think their Proceedings tend to do that cause Service, which is still kept up, as professedly as ever. This is what I think an Argument that should a little move every one of you, that there is another Title to this *Crown* kept up by our *Papists*, and *Jacobites*, in opposition to that of Her Majesty, and the *House of Hanover*; that this is the great Contest now on Foot; that these sort of persons must guide their Conduct in all Elections, as may best serve their main Cause. And therefore I think it one good

Rule

Rule to you, that you should never give your Vote on that side, with which the *Stream* of the *Jacobite Interest* runs; because I cannot imagine, but that they know something of the *Secrets* of things: And I cannot think of any other Reason for their Zeal for the *Tories*, but because they think the general Tendency of *Tory-principles*, and *Politicks*, favours their grand Cause. Now, on the other side, it is notorious that all the Hope of the *Protestant Cause*, lies in the Security of the *Protestant Succession*, and that the *Dissenters*, as *Protestants*, are bound not only by Principle, but Interest, to do all in their Power towards that. From hence it appears, that the Reason of their voting with the *Whigs*, is because they imagine them to be entirely in the Interest of the House of Hanover, as well as most hearty to preserve their Toleration. Here then is a very remarkable difference. The *Dissenters* are led by their Principles in Civil Affairs, and their Interest, as they are *Protestants*, to Vote for the *Whigs*. These are sufficient and apparent Reasons, without supposing, that they think the *Whigs* to be in designs against the *Established Church*. They Vote for them, as those who are most openly, and plainly in the Interest of the *Protestant Succession*, and the Toleration of them as *Fellow-Protestants*. Here is some colour and ground for it, without supposing any Enmity to the Church; and thus they would Vote on these Accounts, supposing they thought the *Whigs* never so hearty for the Church. On the other side, as long as our *Papists*, and *Jacobites* are led by their Principles, and prosecute that Cause which is never out of their Eye; there can be no tolerable, and plain Reason assign'd for their falling in with the *Tories*; but because they judge the *Tories* in their Behaviour, more serviceable, and less hurtful, to the Cause of their Master, and of the *Popish Line*. Now then do you perceive, on which the Scandal lies? When so good a Reason may be given for the *Dissenters* voting for the *Whigs*, without concerning the Church in the matter; and when there is a Reason for the *Papists* using all their Interest for the *Tories*, that hath so pernicious a look upon our *Protestant Establishment*; and the same Enmity to the Church, at least, if not greater, may be with as much Reason suspected in those whom our *Papists* look upon as their Friends. The Church, and the *Protestant Dissenters*, it is manifest, have now one common Interest in the *Protestant Succession*, as they had at the Revolution, in opposing Popery and Arbitrary Power. But neither State, nor Church can have one common Interest with the *Papists*, to give any plausible Account of their great Zeal for the *Tories*, upon all Occasions. But I will not trouble you with

Repe.

Repetition. The more you consider what you have given me this opportunity of speaking to you, the more, I am perswaded, you will see, what it is fit, and reasonable to do.

Neighb. I think my self oblig'd to you for your Civility. I am fully satisfy'd that all this Noise about the Danger of the Church, is a groundless, malicious Calumny, as far as the General Body of the Whigs are concern'd. I am convinc'd by Matter of Fact that the Whigs have given the most effectual Proofs of their Love to the Queen, by a long Series of such Services, as I shall be heartily glad to see equall'd by any others. I am sure, their Principles and Conduct, tend openly, and without any doubtful Expressions, to secure the Glory of our great Deliverance, and the Succession in the Protestant Line. They treat us their Fellow-Subjects as Freemen, whilst others bind us like Slaves in Chains. They have been ready to do all Things, that in reason could be desir'd, for the Church, even beyond their Neighbours: and they have done nothing against it. And I am very sure that those who have added so much Glory to Her Majesty, and carried on the War so successfully, will be found at last to have contributed most towards a glorious and lasting Peace. And upon all these Accounts, I esteem my self bound, in Duty, and Interest; in Regard to Her Majesty, my Religion, and my Country: in Tenderness to my self, my Family, and my Posterity, to use all my poor Endeavours for the choosing into the next Parliament such honest Gentlemen, as others call Whigs; but I call, the heartiest Friends to the true united Interest of the Queen, the Church, and the whole Nation.

Gent. Fare you well. I pray God give us all the same Resolution!

F I N I S.

e this
you

ility.
f the
e Ge-
d by
ctual
such
thers,
with-
great
They
nd us
ings,
yond
t it.
much
fully,
orious
y self
eligi-
and
husing
s call
nited
e Re.